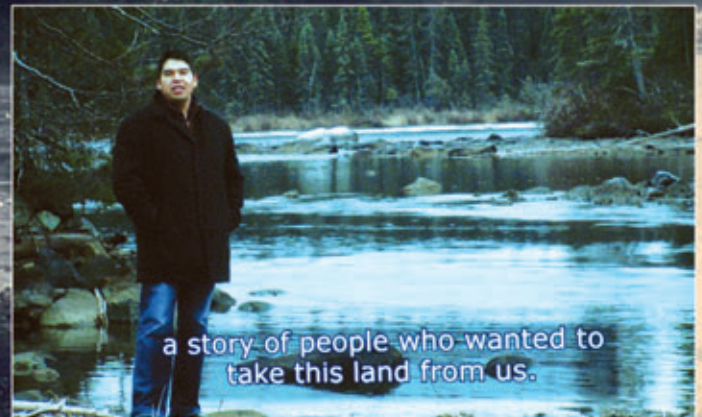
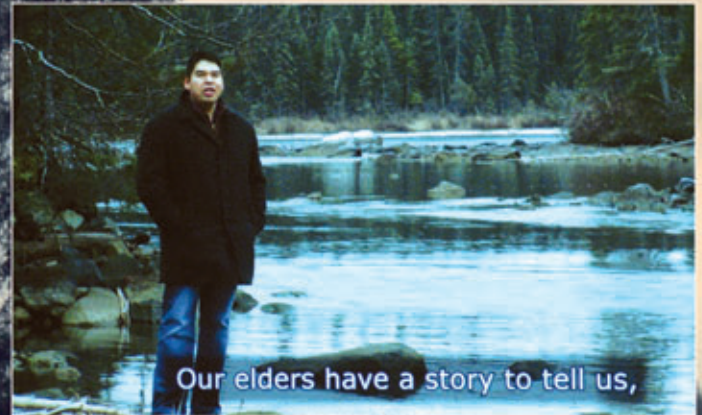


Nation

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Press not necessarily a pass anymore

By Will Nicholls

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. – from Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Being a member of the press used to mean something. It still does to me as this profession is something I see as being very important, as well as being a responsibility that I take seriously.

Without a free press the rule of law and basic human rights can be ignored and stable democracies couldn't function in the way we all want them to do. We would not have real social, political and economic development in our societies. The rights of workers could be easily ignored, citizens jailed without being charged and other human rights violated without an outcry, politicians could pass draconian laws and line their pockets much like dictators we hear about in Third World countries. Businesses could set prices, pollute and generally ensure that profit is the only god they have to adhere to. That's only the tip of the iceberg.

It is for this very reason that the press is often under attack. Accountability is something not many people or corporations want to have to deal with. Blaming the messenger is easier than dealing with or fixing the problem.

Our world is getting smaller in terms of availability and speed of information, but we tend to become immune to the vast amount of information constantly competing for our attention.

It is no wonder that people and corporations take advantage of this and put the spin doctors to work. And part of their work is to discredit the media.

To be fair, the fourth estate, as we are called, is not perfect. Some journalists have made up things, haven't researched things fully or have a definite bias (i.e., Fox News) and have been part of or made the story happen (CIA or KGB representing themselves as journalist) and this has made people lose respect and confidence in our profession.

Still, the majority of us believe in what we are doing in spite of the resulting dangers. Last week, CBS "60 Minutes" correspondent Lara Logan ended up in a hospital, recovering from a sustained brutal beating and sexual assault. She was in Egypt the day that Hosni Mubarak stepped down as president.

Across the world, 850 journalists have been killed since 1992 and there are currently 145 known cases of them in jail, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Even *the Nation* has experienced this as one of our staff was detained here in Quebec while working on a story, even though police knew he was a journalist. We have also been threatened and attempts have been made to intimidate us at times in the past.

Nevertheless, like most people who work in journalism, we believe in the job we do. We will continue to do it to the best of our abilities while accepting the criticism that sometimes comes our way. We will never please everyone but that is not part of our job criteria.

We accept the risks but we do not and cannot accept state imposed controls and restrictions on free press. Nor should our society accept the levels of violence targeted to those of us trying to uphold the principles of a free press.

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photos by:
Neil Diamond and Will Nicholls

Things that fall from above

By Sonny Orr



Last month, watching the 25th anniversary of the first shuttle disaster, I thought that time had just run away from me then come back and slapped me in the face. How could that be? It seemed like just a decade ago when the entire world was shocked by images of space debris raining down over Florida. But the truth is out there. There are things that fly around that abide by nature's infallible law of gravity. What goes up must come down, right?

I flipped to another channel and hit upon an interesting show called *Meteorite Men*. These guys search the globe for pieces of space rock scattered around some known sites where people have witnessed fireballs descending from the heavens. These sightings are rare, but meteorites hitting the ground actually happen all the time, but there's no one to witness them. It's kind of like the "if a tree falls down in forest and no one is there to hear it" analogy.

Back in the early '70s in Fort George, the midnight sky was lit up from above. An immense fireball slowly streaked across the sky, and the few people who witnessed it were struck with awe and a bit of fear. Then, suddenly, it burst like a giant fireworks, with a multitude of colours, and disappeared completely. Only the lights spread out across the witnesses' eyes, the afterglow etched into their retinas lasting for several seconds. The night-watchman commented that it was an incredible sight, but he was glad to have seen that natural phenomenon and went back to his rounds.

A few decades later, just north of Chisasibi, I was out fall goose hunting with my cousins and we were waiting for a few flocks of geese to approach us. We readied ourselves, then the geese started acting alarmed. A dirty brown meteorite with a long blue flame nearly collided with the excited geese that scattered in all directions. The fireball

sped by and seemed to have gone down a few miles south of us. In a way, we were glad that the geese were scared off by that rather than from someone who didn't hide well enough.

In more recent history, debates are still surrounding the fireball that hit north of Whapmagoostui. Was it a meteorite or was the gigantic hole just a landslide that slipped into the bay? All kinds of evidence seems to point out that it came from outer space, like how did seashells and other sea flotsam end up in the trees 30 feet high? Why did the men in black show up? (Just kidding, but this incident seemed to have stirred no interest whatsoever from so-called scientists.) Now, worries of having a meteorite hit you are pretty slim, but it has happened.

Now that most of these fireballs are explainable, what about the ones that don't hit the ground and kind of zoom around like a lost bush pilot without GPS, these are most disconcerting. Recently, red glowing lights have appeared, similar to the ones that showed up in Jerusalem, only to disappear at a fantastic rate up into the heavens. What about those lights that seem to appear more and more often, almost on a daily basis?

Reports from around the world seem to just be passed up as hoaxes or are so common that they are now just classified as UFOs. What happened to all the mass hysteria that people used to succumb to, remember Orson Welles' *The War of the Worlds* radio show (no one does since it was broadcast in 1938) when people just freaked out and tried to deal with the issue of an alien invasion. Now that it is happening every day, I think that the general population just wants E.T. to come out of the space closet and show us who it really is and fork up some better video games to keep us happy.

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For love and justice

Hundreds march through the streets of Montreal to honour Canada's missing/murdered Aboriginal women

By Amy German

In solidarity with those in Ottawa, Vancouver and across the country, Montrealers braved the cold at Cabot Square on Valentine's Day to remember and honour the women Canada forgot – at least 582 missing or murdered Aboriginal women.

This was Montreal's second annual Memorial March for Missing and Murdered Women, an event that first started in Vancouver in 1991 to remember those who have gone missing from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. For the past 20 years the march has gone through the Eastside to mark the areas from where the women went missing. From that area alone, there are still 32 yet to be accounted for.

The issue of missing and murdered women has taken on a new tone in Montreal with the discovery of Tiffany Morrison's remains last year. Morrison was a 24-year-old Kahnawake mother who disappeared in 2006 after last being seen heading home from a LaSalle bar in a taxi.

Her remains were discovered in woods beneath the bridge by a construction worker doing maintenance on the Mercier Bridge, just walking distance from the community. No arrests have been made in her case.

"For a lot of people who have heard about this story, this has brought it back home to them. But there are also many who don't know her story. Something as horrible as this does raise the profile of the issue and slowly but surely more people will find out about this issue," said Maya Rolbin-Ghanie, of Missing Justice, a collective dedicated to raising awareness of missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

Before the march got underway, speeches were made to remind the participants what they were there for – justice.

Ghanie said beyond memorializing these women, prevention is a major issue and this is not going to happen if the federal government keeps cutting funding from organizations like the

Native Women's Association of Canada and their Sisters in Spirit Initiative (SIS).

Though SIS was the first organization in Canada to document how many Aboriginal women had gone missing or were murdered, many of whose cases remain unsolved, after five years of special project status under the federal government, their funding was cut indefinitely.

In the wake of the funding cut, the government promised \$10 million in the 2010-2011 federal budget, however SIS didn't see one cent of it. Instead the funding was reallocated to Public Safety Canada and the RCMP to do similar research in less detail and provide for wider police privileges, such as wiretappings.

"We want them to put their money where their mouth is basically. If they say they want to prioritize the safety of Aboriginal women, increasing police power for the purpose of wiretaps and so on is not going to make Aboriginal women safer," said Ghanie.

Nakuset, executive director of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal (NWSM) and co-president of the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Strategy Network, also spoke at the rally and presented some interesting facts.

While she noted that 42% of the women she sees at the NWSM are victims of violence, there is some hope. Nakuset said she had recently been contacted by a representative from Public Safety Canada who was looking for input in regards to developing safety plans for Aboriginal women in Montreal. She invited anyone interested to share their ideas with the Network so that they can be presented to the government.

"If this money is not going to go to SIS, at least these ideas will be going to the government so that they can implement our ideas," said Nakuset.

Among the marchers, Cree siblings Kevin and Melissa Brousseau marched side-by-side in solidarity.

"The biggest problem we have, if you look at the statistics, is that 60% of the

culprits in these criminal acts are white men. This means a good percentage of them are Native men. It comes down to the way we treat our women in our communities, raising our daughters and taking care of them. Showing up here as a Native man is representative of what



Photo courtesy of Melissa Brousseau

Native men need to do. It is up to us to do something," said Kevin Brousseau.

Raymond Blackned from Waskaganish was also among the marchers. He was there remembering Tera Fay Grace Jolly, whose life was cut short at 16 after being brutally murdered in the community in 2009.

"It was terrible. Just standing here today really brings me back to how our society treats women," said Blackned.

At the same time, in light of Valentine's Day, Blackned attended the march out of love for his wife and two daughters, saying he knew that today there would be men out there missing their loved ones.

"Even though I am a man, I have to stand up and show support and respect to women – it is something we need to do more often. These things would happen less often if men showed more respect towards women," said Blackned.



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Cabinet shuffle

Geoffrey Kelley finds himself back as the provincial Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs

By Amy German

After a four-year stint managing other portfolios in the National Assembly, Geoffrey Kelley, Liberal MNA for Jacques Cartier, is back handling Aboriginal Affairs, after taking the position over from Pierre Corbeil.

"Working on the Native questions in Quebec is something that I find a very exciting challenge," said Kelley.

The Nation spoke with Kelley eight days after his reappointment. He said he is still familiarizing himself with where he had left off back in 2007, Kelley already had some ideas as to where he wanted to direct his focus.

"There is so much work that needs to be done, but there are already a lot of things that work well. Part of my job is to remind Quebecers and First Nations of the progress that we have already made, but then to identify those challenges and those areas where we need to do a better job and then work together to improve things," said Kelley.

First and foremost, Kelley said his biggest priority is to visit communities and reconnect with the Native leaders he worked alongside in the past and to meet those who have come into power since he left the position previously.

Kelley said he prided himself on having visited 33 communities when he last held the position in 2007, his new goal is to break that record so he can get to know each community's issues personally.

Kelley said he believes Premier Jean Charest gave him the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio again because of his previous successes in working with First Nations. One example of this is how he, along with the Grand Council of the Crees and the city of Val-d'Or, managed to raise the funding for the First Nations Pavilion at the Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue / l'Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue in partnership with the federal and provincial governments.

How he has behaved personally on the job also factored into it.



Geoffrey Kelley, Liberal MNA

"I think it is very important to deal with the First Nations directly, to be as available as possible. I am known as someone who has a great respect for the language, the history and the traditions of the First Nations. I see them very much as an essential component of Quebec's past, present and future and I would like to underline future," said Kelley.

In terms of the future for First Nations in Quebec, Kelley wants to get back to basics. Though he acknowledges that economic development is always a priority when it comes to improving the quality of life on First Nations reserves, ensuring that there is a social foundation for this takes more precedence for Kelley. After having spent the last few years on education and social services committees, he is hoping to take this expertise to First Nations communities by focusing on education and training for First Nations youth.

"I have a great prejudice towards education. If education and training are not made available, a lot of the things that we dream about won't become possible," said Kelley.

When he was last responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Kelley said he was also looking into Youth Protection to see if there was a model that would be more appropriate for Aboriginal communities. This is another area that he will look into again to see what kind of progress has

been made during his absence and what can to be done to improve the situation of many Aboriginals.

Though there has been some concern over the kinds of projects some communities had been in negotiations, Kelley said he wants to reassure that although there has been a cabinet shift, nothing has been lost and he will be briefed on every detail of outgoing Minister Corbeil's dealings with the communities. For that matter, one of Corbeil's assistants under Aboriginal Affairs is actually staying on with Kelley to ensure that the transition goes smoothly.

Kelley spoke with enthusiasm about getting to work right away to improve outcomes for Quebec's First Nations.

"My first priority is to get to know what their issues are and if you are in a small First Nation community, the government can be pretty intimidating. We have many departments, many ministers and many political attachés and I can see how easily these communities can get lost dealing with the government. My office serves as the doors they go through to try to steer their way through various government departments; that is part of what our role is," said Kelley.

THE BUILD-UP OF A SUCCESS STORY



Here's an overview of training programs developed by the Cégep St-Félicien and the Collegial Studies Center of Chibougamau in collaboration with Cree Human Resources Development - CHRD.

CIVIL ENGINEERING

Seven students from Mistissini, Chisasibi and Nemaska were involved in this training hosted in Chibougamau from October 2009 to December 2010.

Those new graduates bear the title of Civil Engineering Technicians in "Inspection and Quality Control of Road and Municipal Works". Here are some of the tasks they had to accomplish during this full time credited training program of 1,260 hours – 14 months:

- Read and interpret plans and prepare preliminary estimates;
- Perform standardized laboratory tests as well as on site testing;
- Participate in the feasibility studies or technical design for construction projects, maintenance of roads and municipal works;
- Analyse grounds and materials;
- Proceed to land surveys;



Normand Katapatuk, Student in Inspection and Quality Control of Roads

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

According to Emploi-Québec, Civil engineering technologists and technicians are highly in demand in Northern Québec and this is an employment sector with a high potential for Cree workers.

Several companies such as SNC-Lavalin, Qualitas-Monterval, Stavibel, Génivar, Dessau-Soprin and Équipement JVC Inc. have expressed their full support for this training program and are eagerly seeking those graduates. Some Cree-owned business in the area of construction of roads and municipal works also need qualified graduates.

NEW TRAINING PROGRAM IN WASWANIPi SUPERVISION OF HOSPITALITY SERVICES IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES

This training program of 15 months aims to provide Eeyou Istchee with skilled manpower able to enhance the management of hospitality and tourism businesses. A group of 15 adults started this training program in Waswanipi. A significant number of those new graduates will work in Waswanipi's upcoming Lodge opening by December 2011. This training is an initiative of the Waswanipi Development Corporation and private promoters. **There are still openings for anyone interested. For more information, contact Charles Burgy at 418-748-3903 ext. 223.**

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Homelessness Marathon returns to Montreal's Friendship Centre

For the ninth consecutive year, the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal (NFCM) will host the Homelessness Marathon, the largest discussion on homelessness and poverty in Canada.

The NFCM, in conjunction with CKUT 90.3 FM, McGill University's community radio station, will be participating as part of a national event to raise awareness about Aboriginal homelessness and the circumstances that cause it.

According to Keren Tang, the NFCM's youth coordinator at the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre, the event will be held outdoors to highlight the plight of those on the streets.

"This is going to be a 14-hour radio marathon discussing topics from the east coast to the west coast on homelessness, welfare, housing, public policy and missing/murdered Aboriginal women, their issues and rights. We will be on air all night long in a station set up outside the Friendship Centre on the corner of St-Laurent and Ontario, where we will be offering food, hot chocolate and coffee.

"The first hours on the air will be devoted to Aboriginal issues, not only the missing Aboriginal women but urban Aboriginal issues, such as shelters and Aboriginal street patrols. The entire program will be carried by almost 40 stations across the country," said Tang.

The Homeless Marathon begins February 23 at 5pm and runs until 7am the following day. The show will be carried on other community radio stations as well as campus and Native radio stations across Canada. Listeners will be invited to call in with questions or comments at 1-866-594-7729. For more info: <http://ckut.ca/homeless/>

Halifax vying to host Indigenous Games

Halifax is currently on a shortlist to host the 2014 North American Indigenous Games.

The maritime metropolis is in competition with London, Ont., and Regina to host the prestigious sports and cultural event with the hopes that the winning city will be announced within the next couple of months.

According to the Chronicle Herald, Grant MacDonald from Events Nova Scotia made the announcement on February 15 after making a formal bid for the games last October.

Events Nova Scotia is backing the national game event in conjunction with Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq Sports Council that would see First Nations from across North America come to Halifax to compete in 17 sports categories.

MacDonald told the Herald, "It is a significant, multi-sport event and it has added significance in that it has a very large cultural program that goes along with the games."

The last games were hosted in Duncan, B.C. and attracted 4,500

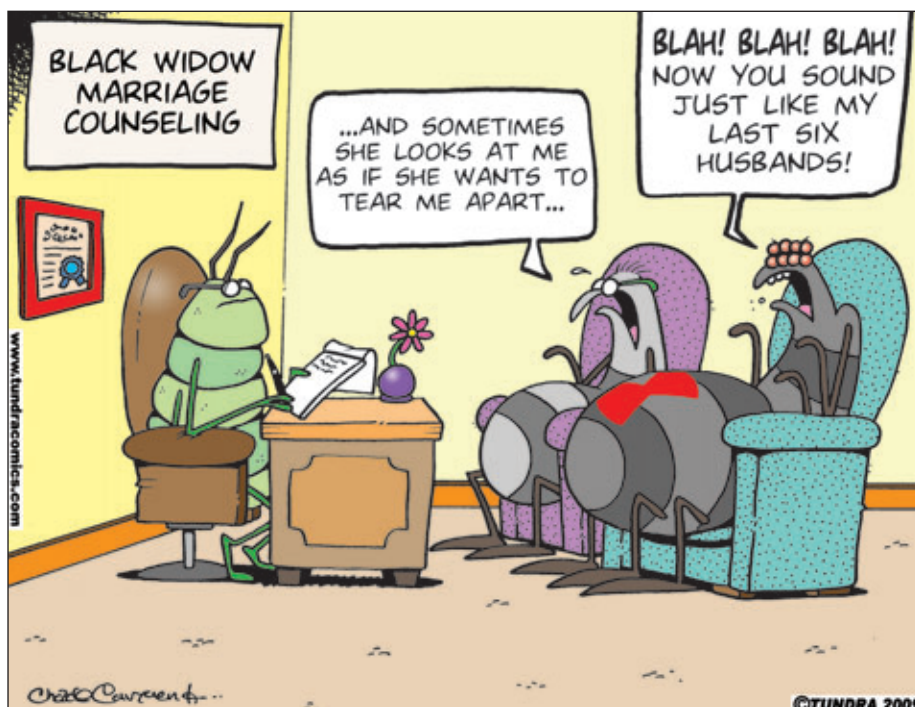
Indigenous athletes. This included a large contingency from Quebec under the moniker Eastern Door and the North.

Cree swimmer Gabriel Rabbitskin brought home four gold medals and one silver medal in various swimming categories, making headlines within the Cree nation and beyond.



The 2011 games were to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, however the city removed its bid in 2010, ultimately cancelling the event. Instead, the city is hosting the Indigenous Games USA, from which Canadian participants are excluded.

For more info: http://aboriginal-sportcircle.ca/en/the_north_american_indigenous_games



Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: www.tundracomics.com

The way we were

The release party for the Cree film, *Together We Stand Firm*, brings its remaining stars back into the forefront

By Amy German

While there have been many books written about the David and Goliath story of how the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement came to be, nothing really compares to hearing it from those who made this history.

After years of discussion over the film, the Grand Council of the Crees, in collaboration with the Cree Naskapi Commission, finally had its moment in the sun with the first screening of *Together We Stand Firm* on February 10 at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

The event not only brought out Quebec Premier Jean Charest, former Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs for Quebec, Pierre Corbeil, and his successor, Geoffrey Kelley, but many others who were actually part of this history.

In attendance were many of the film's stars, such as original signatories Robert Kanatewat, Dr. Philip Awashish and Fred Blackned, as well as the relatives of the other signers who blazed these important trails for the Crees.

Other players involved in the story, such as lawyer James O'Reilly and former Quebec negotiator John Ciaccia, were there to see themselves on the big screen and remember what it was like to be part of shaping this monumental treaty.

Together We Stand Firm is the first in a series of four films to be released by the Cree-Naskapi Commission and the Grand Council of the Crees. Chapters on the history of the Crees and their political battles and achievements are expected to follow with one film to chronicle each decade since the signing

of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

The evening began with a series of speeches and dedications to those who fought so hard and made so many sacrifices in the name of their people and what the deal for hydroelectricity in the north meant not only for the Crees but all Quebecers.

This was so eloquently expressed by Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come. "The lives of many of us have been touched and even defined in powerful ways by the events of the 1970s in Eeyou Istchee, Quebec. For Quebecers in the '60s and '70s hydroelectric development was to be the economic engine to bring their growing nation economically and politically into the 20th century.

"For the Crees who pursued a traditional way of life in the bush, the arrival of this project on our lands was also going to bring our society into the modern world. Only in our case the distance to be covered was long and the speed of the journey of change was therefore to be much more rapid.

"In a manner similar to Quebec, we place conditions on our own development so that our language, values, way of life and social conventions can adapt to the impacts of development and at the same time so that we can take advantage of the opportunities that come with the transformation of the territory.

"The importance of protecting culture and language is shared by Quebec and the Crees and this fact was important in the shaping of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement," said Coon Come.

"This was a generation of Crees who were born in the bush where



their parents harvested what the land naturally provided. Many of this new generation, such as the late Grand Chief Dr. Billy Diamond, the late Albert Diamond, Grand Chief Dr. Ted Moses, Robert Kanatewat, Dr. Philip Awashish, the late Smally Petawabano, the late Steven Bearskin and many others bravely stood up to defend their lands and their people's way of life. This young generation of Crees sought recognition of their people's time-honoured control over their lands and communities. They sought it in the face of the massive James Bay Development Project already being built.

"The opposition of the Crees in the courts to the James Bay Project was the appropriate reaction to decisions that had been made without our consent.

"It was the only way for us to be heard in Quebec at that time."

Coon Come also made a special dedication to the late former Grand Chief Billy Diamond. His widow, Elizabeth, was honoured on stage for Diamond's courage, commitment and many sacrifices in a heartfelt moment that brought the audience of nearly 100 to tears.

The film depicts a blow-by-blow battle between the Crees and then-Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa. So it was appropriate that Charest take the stage to offer the Quebec government's perspective.

Charest began his speech making light of how his recent cabinet shuffle brought two Aboriginal Affairs Ministers to the event.

"I wanted to do something special for you tonight so I brought with me two Ministers of Indian Affairs. We started the day with Pierre Corbeil as minister and finished it with Geoff Kelley.

"You should take this as a compliment, not only after negotiating with the Cree did the agreement for James Bay (happen) but also the Paix des Braves. We finally came to the realization that to successfully negotiate with the Cree requires two ministers, not one.

After the screening, Charest spoke to *the Nation* regarding his impressions of the film.



"I'm very touched by the film. It is a very important story for Quebecers to share and for the Cree Nation to share. Ironically, as I was watching it I thought Robert Bourassa would be surprised to find out today that he gave birth to the modern Cree Nation by his actions. I am delighted by the fact that a lot of lessons

mass, as so many in the south of the province tend to see it.

"There is not enough known about the presence of the Cree or the Inuit or the Naskapi," said Charest.

Using this public engagement to remind those in attendance about the Plan Nord, his controversial plan for development in the north, Charest was

"LIFE CHANGES SO QUICKLY AND WE SEE THAT IN THE FILM. TODAY WE ARE NOW IN THE ERA OF FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND THE INTERNET. BUT IF YOU THINK BACK TO 40 YEARS AGO, HOW ISOLATED THOSE COMMUNITIES WERE IN TERMS OF GEOGRAPHY AND THE UNEVEN FIGHT BETWEEN DAVID AND GOLIATH AND WHAT AN EXTRAORDINARY EVENT THIS WAS."

were learned through that experience in the 1970s."

Charest said he was anxious for the film to be translated into French so that it could become a teaching tool for all of Quebec's youth, not just the Cree as he is certain that it will have a positive impact on the province.

He praised *Together We Stand Firm* in that it serves as a tremendous reminder that the north is not just a great land

quick to add that whatever plans for development are made they will be done in partnership with the people who have occupied the land for so many centuries.

In his first working day as provincial Aboriginal Affairs Minister for the second time, Geoff Kelley said he was honoured to have been invited to the event, particularly as it was such a unique way to mark his own day in history.

"I am by training a historian so I was very excited (to see it) because the notion of being a witness to history. What we saw tonight was an extraordinary story told by the people who made it. And, I think that sadly, the death of Grand Chief Billy Diamond last fall reminds us that we have to get these stories down.

"It is an extraordinary project to get those pioneers, those people who made history, to tell their stories in their own words.

"Life changes so quickly and we see that in the film. Today we are now in the era of Facebook, Twitter and the Internet. But if you think back to 40 years ago, how isolated those communities were in terms of geography and the uneven fight between David and Goliath and what an extraordinary event this was."

James O'Reilly, who was a young lawyer when he agreed to represent the Crees in the early '70s, was on hand to see his big screen debut and reflect on the history he once lived.

"One of the things that struck me the most was how accurately the film portrayed the way of life of the Crees during that particular time.

"This truly brought out the core spirit of the Crees with their relationship with the land and the animals as well as the intelligence and determination of the people. I have been a great admirer of Billy Diamond since the first time I saw him.

"I have always thought that he was one of the greatest Indian leaders I ever met and he went beyond that to become one of the great leaders of the modern world.

"It struck me as a good synopsis. It is a difficult thing to do on film, to present different angles and I thought they did quite well.

"Obviously they could have put in a bit more drama in the courtroom because that was very tough, but that is also my profession," he said with a chuckle.

Having witnessed the events leading up to the signing and fighting alongside his fellow Cree in the '70s, former

Grand Chief Ted Moses reminisced about old times – good and bad. He was also one of the film's big stars.

"It brings back a lot of memories for me, especially when it came to remembering those who are no longer with us. It captures the history that we will now be able to keep forever, a story that can be told to other people in Quebec and Canada and the rest of the world," said Moses.

Though he was not featured in the film, former Grand Chief Matthew Mukash was beaming with pride, particularly as he played a role in the film's development.

"We have been talking about this project for a long, long time. Finally when I came in as Grand Chief, this was something that I wanted to see happen because our signatories, these major players were getting old, we didn't know how long they were going to be with us and some of them are already gone. So, we decided that it had to be done," said Mukash.

Waswanipi Chief Paul Gull said he found the film inspiring but very emo-

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tional at times as Billy Diamond was his second cousin and someone he was very close to.

When asked what he thought Diamond would have said about the film, Gull said, "I would say he would be humble, he wouldn't say great things about himself. He would probably be happy about it, especially seeing his other friends and all of the people he worked with in it."

Chisasibi Chief Abraham Rupert was also on hand to see the film and was happy to sing its praises.

"It was great. This is something that was needed for some time because young people need to know their history. The history of the Cree and how we got to where we are today, what it took and the sacrifices that a lot of people had to make," said Rupert.

At the same time, because the project meant such a dramatic change of lifestyle, having to relocate what was then Fort George to what is now Chisasibi, Rupert wondered whether there would be merit in giving Chisasibi its own historical film.

Original signatory Fred Blackned seemed happy looking back on what has happened in the last 35 years.

"The film was pretty good. It will do the good that it is intended for, like using it in schools. Many people out there, who are 30 and younger, don't

know what was going on back then," said Blackned.

Another signatory, Dr. Philip Awashish from the Cree-Naskapi Commission was proud of the film.

"I was taken back by the fact that this was one of those rare moments that we actually have on film, the Cree people who made Cree history themselves. I have always said history is really about

"THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WAS NEEDED FOR SOME TIME BECAUSE YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW THEIR HISTORY. THE HISTORY OF THE CREE AND HOW WE GOT TO WHERE WE ARE TODAY, WHAT IT TOOK AND THE SACRIFICES THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE HAD TO MAKE."

the activities of people and for a change I was watching Cree history itself as told by the people who made it. So, it was quite a change from the Eurocentric history I was taught in my school days," said Awashish.

His Cree-Naskapi Commission colleague, Robert Kannelwat, who appears in the film to discuss being a signatory, told *the Nation* why he believes this film will have such an impact.

"What made me proud was that Premier Charest spoke about translating this film into French so that it could be put into Quebec schools — that is wonderful. It is all right to read books about history but sometimes your mind wanders when you read. But when you see a film like this, it is a really good lesson about the past," said Kannelwat.

Having represented Bourassa during the negotiations, former Quebec minister John Ciaccia played an important role in the development of the Agreement and was interviewed throughout the film.

"It was not only nostalgic (to see the film), but it was very interesting to see how the Cree have adapted and moved on. It's a wonderful film and it is also wonderful for the younger generations who will see this, you have to keep those values," said Ciaccia.

Representing the Inuit, the other party involved in the negotiations, Pita Aatami, president of Makivik Corporation, said the film was a learning experience.

"I have heard a lot of discussions in the past about what the Inuit and the Cree went through but I really think that

this was a well-documented reflection of what they went through to get us where we are today," said Aatami.

Together We Are Strong definitely made an impact on those at its debut screening. In time all Crees and the rest of the province, if not the country and the rest of the world, will have the opportunity to see it, to learn and relive an important part of Aboriginal and Canadian history.

will be hosting an information session in support of its ongoing Renard Feasibility Study on March 8, 2011 at its Mississauga Office.

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Representing community health

The Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue produces the first two graduates from its new CHR program

By Amy German

Laurie Ann Georgekish and Joni Saganash have a lot to be proud of these days. Both are back working in their respective home communities of Wemindji and Waswanipi, and both are the first graduates from the Community Health Representative program at the Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

"When we graduated we were told to brag a little which we didn't do as there were only two of us graduating," said Georgekish, laughing. "We were told that we should be very proud of ourselves as we are the first group graduating from this college course as CHRs."

The others who Georgekish and Saganash began the program with will complete their courses this spring and graduate in June after some of them needed to take a break from the course for personal reasons.

Georgekish said she really enjoyed the program because it she found it to be fun and it wasn't too far away from home. During the 18 months she spent in the program, the two graduates got to perform three of their four internships within Cree communities to get on-the-job training and familiarize themselves with the kinds of programs and services available through the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB).

A few years ago, Georgekish said she was thinking of returning to school but was uncertain what to study when she was asked to do some replacement work as a receptionist at the local clinic. Having to assist in the workshops for the CHRs as part of the job, Georgekish's eyes were opened to a new career opportunity and just by luck the Cégep in Val-d'Or launched its new CHR program.

"Because I enjoyed doing those workshops with the CHRs I decided to do the training," said Georgekish.

According to Marc Bertrand, director of the Cégep's Val-d'Or campus, the

new CHR program offers a mix of nursing and social work courses and is tailored to the Cree communities. There are Cree-specific courses on values, culture, communication in Cree and traditional knowledge since a CHR is expected to draw from both traditional and modern medicine when working with clients. A CHR's role is to serve as a middleperson between clients and health practitioners, such as nurses and doctors, to ensure that the clients comprehend their treatment or medical advice and that the professionals understand what is culturally appropriate for the clients.

"The CHR program is an initiative from the Cree Health Board. They contacted us to ask if we could prepare a program to meet the specific needs of Native communities and northern communities," said Bertrand.

After researching the specific academic competencies and job requirements of CHRs working within the Cree communities, the Cégep developed a program based on those factors through courses already being offered in their nursing and social work programs.

Once a program of 16 specific competencies that could be learned through the college was established, it was then passed through the institution's own academic review board before being sent to the Ministry of Education for its stamp of approval, which it readily received.

Currently there are 14 Cree students studying in the program though Bertrand said the CBHSSJB is looking to graduate a total of about 80 students to fill the employment demand within the communities.

Because the program is becoming so popular, Bertrand said a number of other Aboriginal communities, such as the Algonquins of Lac Simon, are thinking of introducing CHRs into their communities and have shown interest in the program.



Graduate Joni Saganash and Graduate Laurie Ann Georgekish

Having examined other programs across Canada, the new CHR program is the only one of its kind in the entire country, combining the practices and values of both traditional medicine and modern medicine into one course.

As the program is brand new, Bertrand said they are looking to refine the program a bit more before creating new divisions for other communities.

"It is starting to be a real success. Because it is that time of year when we do our recruiting, we have been going around the communities and more and more people asking about it," said Bertrand.

For those interested in the CHR program, you can contact guidance councilor Émélie Rivard-Boudreau at 819-874-3837, #497 or Emelie.RivardBoudreau@cegepat.qc.ca

Vehicle delight

Car companies show off new products at the Montreal International Auto Show

By Prem Lee Prasannan



The 2011 Montreal International Auto Show was one of the best attended events I have seen in recent years. The organizers carefully orchestrated this 43rd edition with a wide range of vehicles from the expensive advanced technology sport models to the economical and innovative cars.

It was thrilling to watch the display of overwhelming excitement ranging from the children to the serious car enthusiasts. The audience was allowed to check out the interior and exterior of the cars and trucks on display with some exceptions, such as the \$200,000 Aston Martin and \$400,000 Rolls Royce. It was a rare opportunity to see these half-a-million-dollar cars even from the other side of the rope.

Displays of Honda's Formula 1, American SUVs, especially the Lincoln, and Mitsubishi's new electric SUV brought in some excitement. While the expensive sport models – Lamborghini, Ferrari, Porsche, Audi, Range Rover and Mercedes – captured much attention. These high-end cars promise to deliver a lot more than you can imagine.

Most impressive of all was the aggressive competition of car companies from around globe in showcasing their efforts to develop and produce ecoEnergy vehicles. For future electric-driven cars, Hydro-Québec made its presence felt. The utility company will test Mitsubishi MIEV prototypes in the field. This will help Hydro-Québec determine how the electricity distribution network can handle



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the demand. These distribution facilities will encourage more companies to develop the next generation of high-efficiency alternate-fuel cars.

As for the smaller models, the new Fiat 500 attracted another large crowd. This cute little Italian charmer will surely get into the minds of the Volkswagen Beetle and Mercedes Smart fans. The beautiful exterior design and the well thought-out interior design will make this car appealing on city streets. Overall, it looks solidly made – inside and out.

Most drivers on the road are not ready to compromise on the power and handling of their vehicles. Hopefully the car companies will focus on developing new technologies, which will result in a powerful, budget-conscious and eco-friendly strategy to cater to the wide range of highly imaginative car and truck maniacs.



Car shows & mind blows

Checking out vintage cars in Cuba

By Will Nicholls

Every year it seems I go to a car show and they never lose their glamour for me. It's what's new and cool. How fast or how long will it last? Can it handle the highway as well as the byways of gravel roads? What type of new gadgets does it have? What does the law say you have to have and what are the available colours? Is it safe or is it fast and furious? The list goes on and on.



I would say it's especially for the boys, but the chickas are now playas and they are even more discriminating and savvy than most guys these days.

Back when I was younger I was taught how to do the most basic repairs on cars and trucks. I even changed a transmission once. Not by myself, of course, but with a lot of other guys. We all helped each other. With today's cars and trucks this is getting harder and harder to do. It's all the new electronics they are filled with and the ways they are patched into the vehicle.

I miss the old beat-up heaps that we all used to work on. While today's cars and trucks are aerodynamically correct for maximum speed and fuel efficiency they just don't look as cool as the older models did.

That's why I loved Cuba. When it came to cars, it was the '40s and '50s everywhere I turned. Yes, there were some new ones but it was the older cars that stood out. Every one of them was privately owned and in great shape. Talking to the owners I found out that they helped each other with repairs and upkeep.

Now there were cars and trucks that caught the eye. Hell, just the trunk sometimes seemed it was as big as the whole interior of today's cars. You could fit a "Smart" car in the truck and use it as a spare if you wanted too.

It's a shame they are on the non-export list but a trip to Cuba allows you to enjoy them for an hour or two or three. Ah, the memories of a simpler past have come alive again.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Violet Pachanos** as **President of the Niskamoon Corporation** as **unanimously voted by its Board of Directors**.

A well-known figure in Eeyou Istchee and her hometown of Chisasibi where she resides, Violet was born and raised in Fort George in the traditional lifestyle of the Cree.

After residential school in Fort George, Violet continued with post-secondary studies at the Willis Business College in Ottawa and then went on to study **Political Science and Sociology at the University of Ottawa**. While in Ottawa she worked for the federal government at the National Health and Welfare in the Medical Services Branch and at the Canada Pension Plan Department.

From here, Violet's political and professional career spans over a remarkable three (3) decades. In 1974 after the incorporation of the Grand Council of the Crees, she was **recruited to come and work for the Grand Council when the negotiations for the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement began**. Violet was a key player in the organization and setting up of the offices of the Grand Council and eventually the Cree Regional Authority after the signing of the JBNQA. She was **involved in the**

start-up of the regional entities, including; the Cree School Board, the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, and the other regional entities.

Violet has always held an active voice towards the promotion of and advancement of aboriginal treaty rights on the national and international stage. She was **part of the Cree delegation to the historic 1981 NGO sponsored conference on indigenous peoples at the United Nations in Geneva**, was part of a study group that **visited New Zealand with the Maori on aboriginal justice systems and issues relating to the role of women and children**, was an official delegate on behalf of the Cree Nation of Quebec to the **2001 World Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa**, was **an invited expert at the Meiji University seminar "500 years after Columbus"**, and visited the Ainu People of Japan. She has made submissions on behalf of the Crees to the **United Nations Commission on Human Rights** and was on the **Canadian Delegation to the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in 1994**.

Her reputable characteristic as a trailblazer combined with leadership qualities have earned her the title of **First Woman in Eeyou**



Istchee to be elected as Chief in a Cree community when she won the 1989 Chisasibi election. Violet was **re-elected a second time and served as Chief for (9) years**. As Chief she was involved in economic initiatives, at the local level, and serving as a Board Member and President and/or Chairman of Kapa Transport, a joint venture with Wemindji and Chisasibi, which includes Beesum Petroleum Inc., BeeMee Petroleum; Director, and Chairman or President of Wiichichituun Development and Director and Chairperson of Chee Bee Construction.

She was also the **first woman and the only one to date to be elected as Deputy Grand Chief of**

the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and Vice-Chairperson of the Cree Regional Authority. She was also the first Corporate Secretary and Treasurer for the Cree Regional Authority.

Violet Pachanos was appointed by the Grand Council to the Board of Directors of Niskamoon Corporation and has been the **Vice-President since it was established in 2004.** Violet con-

tinues to serve on various boards and committees at the grassroots local level, as well as for the Cree Regional Authority and Grand Council of the Crees. At present, she is **councillor on the Council of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi** as well as a **Commissioner appointed by the GCC/CRA for the Regional Cree Police Commission** and involved in establishing the Cree Regional

Eeyou/Eenou Police Force. I think it is important to mention it. This is an appointment by the CRA/GCC.

Violet has a passion for travel and this interest has taken her to many of the world's beautiful places in Hawaii, Australia, Bali, Singapore, Mauritius, South Africa and South America. She still loves to spend time in the "bush" as much as possible, on the traditional territory of her ancestors.

We are pleased to announce that **Mr. Kenneth Gilpin has been selected by unanimous vote as Vice-President of the Niskamoon Corporation.** This decision, rendered by members of the Board of Directors, is effective immediately.

Kenneth Gilpin will bring many years of various experience to the table; he was successor to Ted Moses where he served as Chief for nine (9) years from 1990 to 1999 in his home community, the Cree Nation of Eastmain. During his tenure as Chief, Mr. Gilpin was representative on numerous boards, namely the Income Security Board and Cree Board of Health; the latter naming him Chairman so as to conclude the term for the late Fred Georgekish.

Currently, Mr. Gilpin is an Eastmain representative member on the Executive Committee of the GCCEI/CRA, has been appointed to the FONDS (FTQ - Regional Solidarity Fund) since 1997 and has,



for the past four (4) years, been representing at the FPPC (Forestry Prioritization Program under the GCC). Recently, Mr. Gilpin has been nominated to sit on the CNACA Board as well as the Justice Advisory Committee of the Grand Council of the Crees.

The Cree Nation of Eastmain

nominated Kenneth Gilpin to represent his community at the Niskamoon Corporation as a Member of the Board in February 2009. Mr. Gilpin is also an active Councillor for his home community and has worked as an administrator for the Cree Nation of Eastmain since 1986.

Mr. Gilpin is happily married to Liane Richmond with whom he shares nine children and nine grandchildren. He enjoys fishing, hunting and being able to practice traditional activities with his family on our great territory.

Thank you for joining us in wishing Kenneth the best of luck in his new role.

Kathy Shecapio,
Director General
Niskamoon Corporation

Should you require further information concerning this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact us at 514-285-6475.

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Special thanks go out to everyone in the communities and in the band offices who contributed to the production of this year's phone book. Without you this project would not have been possible. Meegwetch!

Raging in the age of light and darkness

By Lyle Stewart

I'm currently reading a great novel by Henry Porter about the temptations of totalitarianism in the birthplace of constitutional limits on state power. Porter's book *The Dying Light* recounts an all-too-credible attempt by the British government to use a fake emergency to suspend citizen rights that have their origins in England's Magna Carta, first proclaimed in the year 1215. Now, however, we live in an age of blanket technological surveillance that can vastly increase the ability of a government to control the population it supposedly is elected to serve.

In this battle, the same communications technology that helped enable the pro-democracy revolts we are now witnessing across the Middle East also facilitates its opposite, in this case an all-too-realistic version of George Orwell's classic novel *1984*.

It's fiction, to be sure. But barely. At times it's difficult to discern the points separating storytelling from journalism, especially when I compare the novel's plotline to the ongoing drama surrounding the Wikileaks organization and the attempt by various countries, chiefly the United States, to shut down the organization while discrediting and vilifying the people who run and support it.

In Porter's novel, a potential whistle-blower with devastating evidence of political wrongdoing faces a government-sponsored attempt to plant child pornography on his computer hard drive as a safeguard against anything he might reveal. The public repugnance that is automatically triggered by such an accusation would overshadow anything he might reveal while giving authorities the pretext to lock him away in a dark, quiet place for a long, long time.

While the details are murky, the Porter story eerily foreshadowed the current real-life battle of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange against sexual assault allegations, just at the moment his website is revealing a monster trove of secret documents that are embarrassing governments around the world. The confrontation is clearly demonstrating that the public's right to information about their political masters in the so-called democratic sphere is very limited indeed. The efforts to silence and discredit Assange and his supporters are even more revealing.

In the Porter novel, the operation and implementation of the all-seeing surveillance state is contracted out to a private corporation that has essentially taken control of the government with its access to and control over information about every citizen in the country. The company cross-indexes these databanks with instantaneous access to Britain's ubiquitous closed-circuit cameras on public thoroughfares, as well as Internet and mobile phone communications.

Back in the real world, take a look at the recent experience of Glenn Greenwald, a columnist for the online publication *Salon*, and a vocal supporter of Wikileaks and the public's right to know. Two weeks ago, it was revealed by the *New York Times* (among others) that Internet security firms were helping powerful entities such as the Bank of America and the US Chamber of Commerce investigate and discredit Wikileaks and other critics. This is happened during the concerted effort by the US government to shut the group down, remember. Among a number of likely illegal tactics was a plan to develop fake documents designed to embarrass people at the Wikileaks organization and a number of media critics such as Greenwald, said the *Times*.

The leaked strategy pompously promised to force journalists like Greenwald into silence. Said the strategy paper, "These are established professionals that have a liberal bent, but ultimately most of them if pushed will choose professional preservation over cause."

It's unlikely to have been successful in Greenwald's case. But he tellingly writes that the revelations illustrate "just how lawless and unrestrained is the unified axis of government and corporate power.... The revolving door between the highest levels of government and corporate offices rotates so fast and continuously that it has basically flown off its track and no longer provides even the minimal barrier it once did. It's not merely that corporate power is unrestrained; it's worse than that: corporations actively exploit the power of the state to further entrench and enhance their power."

So not only are our rights and liberties being attacked, they are being privatized as well. If nothing else, the Wikileaks drama amply demonstrates the adage that the power of knowledge accrues to those who control it. But information technology has taken this to a new extreme.

The saving grace is that the same technology can be turned against those who try to usurp the power to control, exploit and suppress information. The documents proving wrongdoing by the agents working for the Bank of America were hacked by a group of activists known only as "Anonymous," the name itself symbolic of our essential right to lead private lives free from oppressive intrusion.

It's the story told in the Porter novel, whose title – *The Dying Light* – provides a guide to the determination now being demonstrated by peoples across the Middle East, who are risking everything to win democratic rights for their long-oppressed nations at the very moment we risk losing them for good.

"Do not go gentle into that good night," wrote the poet Dylan Thomas. "Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

MacMartin's diary sheds new light on Treaty #9

by Xavier Kataquapit

Recently, I have heard news that greatly affects the First Nations of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation territory in northern Ontario. This news involves the discovery of a 100-plus year-old diary by Daniel MacMartin, a treaty commissioner who represented the government of Ontario. His diary is providing a new perspective on the signing of Treaty #9 in northern Ontario. Up to now, the only recorded and written account of the treaty signing was the treaty document itself.

Since Aboriginal culture is based on oral tradition, the only record of the treaty for my people has been in the stories and recollections of those who were present at the time of the treaty signings. These recollections are still remembered by our living Elders today who inherited these memories from their parents and grandparents. What was promised at the time of the signing of the treaty and what actually was put down in writing has always been a matter for debate. Remember, First Nation people back then did not speak the English language.

Treaty #9 or the James Bay Treaty was signed in 1905 and 1906 between the government of Canada, the province of Ontario and the Ojibway, Cree and Oji-Cree of northern Ontario. Treaty commissioners actually travelled mostly by canoe to various communities and settlements in northern Ontario to have the document signed. Additions to the treaty were made in 1929 and 1930 to encompass a land area from Timmins in the south, to Hudson Bay in the north and between the Quebec and Manitoba borders.

This document was produced by the government of Canada. At the time, very few Aboriginal people in northern Ontario spoke or understood the English language and so the treaty document was translated by Hudson Bay company representatives and church officials, who made themselves available in each location. So few Aboriginal people spoke English at the time that many of the Chief's signatures were signed with a simple "X" beside their name or by using syllabics.

The discovery of MacMartin's diary by historians in the archives of Queen's University is shining new light on what took place and what was said during the signing of the treaty. Up to now, the governments of Ontario and Canada have followed the treaty document which includes a clause to allow the Crown to take away lands for mining, forestry or other purposes. First Nation Elders and representatives have argued for years that the written document is much different than the spoken promises made during the signing.

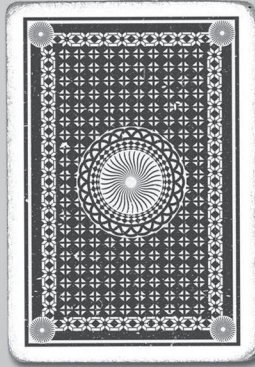
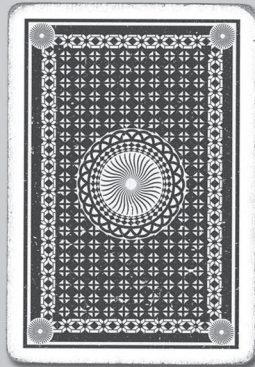
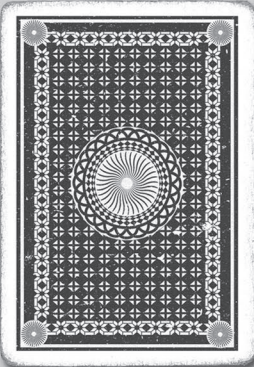
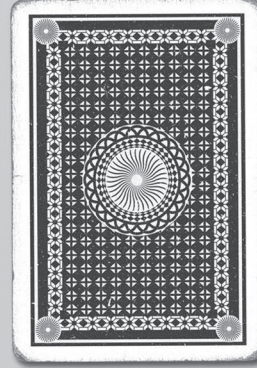
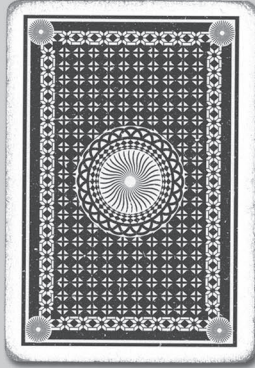
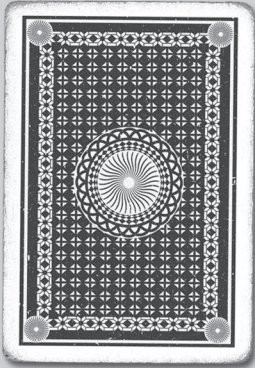
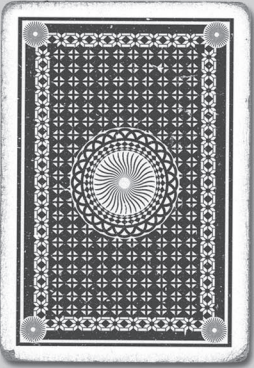
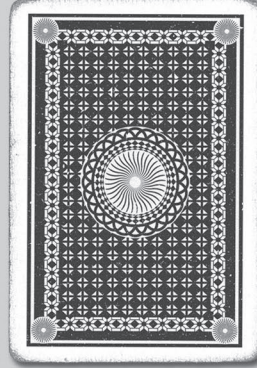
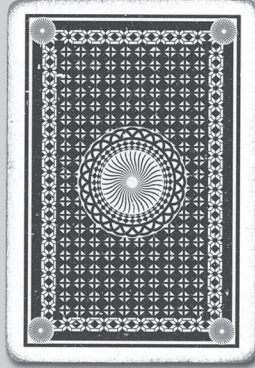
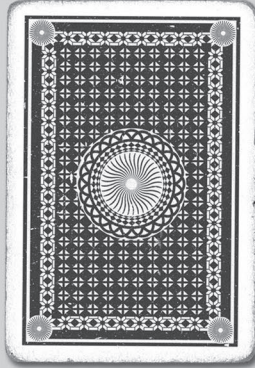
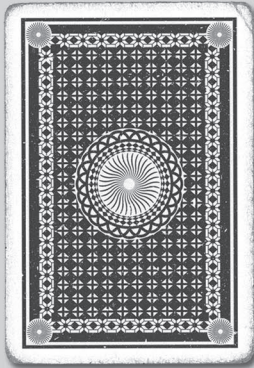
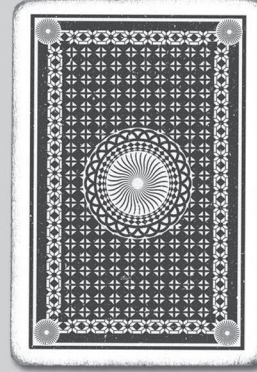
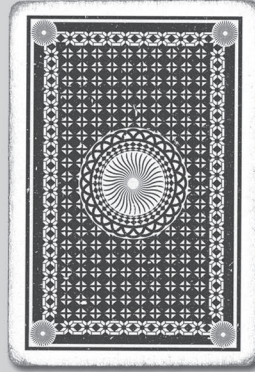
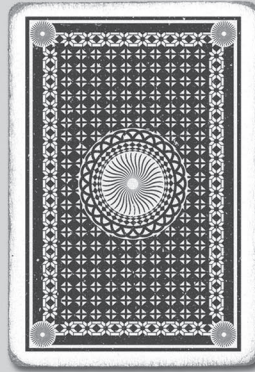
According to Murray Klippenstein, legal representative for Mushkegowuk Council, MacMartin's diary has recorded oral promises made to Native representatives that Native lands would be preserved and that First Nation people would be able to continue to hunt where they pleased. Even though MacMartin's diary provided plenty of details on regular meetings and conversations during the treaty signings, there is no mention made to Native representatives of the all-important clause to take away lands by the government for resource development. Somehow that just turned up in the written document but was forgotten in his own diary.

There have always been questions about what First Nation's people understood and what was promised, concerning Treaty #9. The government's treaty representatives were ill-suited for the negotiations. Duncan Campbell Scott and Samuel Stewart were the two treaty commissioners for the government of Canada. Scott, at the time, believed that Aboriginal people should be assimilated into Canadian society without special rights or recognition. This man of the crown later became the head of Indian Affairs from 1913 to 1932.

In 1920, Scott is noted in Canadian Aboriginal history for directing the process that made it mandatory for all Native children between the ages of seven to 15 to attend residential school. This plan was decided on in an effort to, in Scott's own words in 1920, "... get rid of the Indian problem" and "... continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic and there is no Indian question, and no Indian department." It is common knowledge that Scott believed Aboriginals would not survive as a people.

The discovery of MacMartin's diary reaffirms the belief of First Nations leadership since the signing of Treaty #9 that the process was not clear and completely above board. Many people still believe today that Aboriginal people should be assimilated into society and with the discovery of many rich new natural resources on First Nations lands that view is being promoted by the powers that be.

Make no mistake about it, First Nation people are not standing in the way of careful resource development on Native lands as long as there is proper consultation, negotiation and a fair sharing of the wealth. First Nation people have a tradition as stewards of the land and with the right idea in development we can all benefit while making sure our mother planet is protected. This was the spirit of negotiations my ancestors brought to the table when Treaty #9 was signed. Thanks to MacMartin's obsession with keeping a very detailed diary, the truth has finally emerged after more than 100 years.



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Québec 

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday greetings go out to our family: first to my cousin Ronnie House in Chisasibi on Feb. 14th; happy 7th birthday to my beautiful niece Sara-Lynn Louttit on Feb. 24th and to my cousin Marlene House-Rupert on Feb. 28th. Hope you all have a good day and God bless! With love, from Jennifer, Robert and our boys (OJAY)

I would like to wish my Father Sandy Masty Happy 86th birthday on February 10, 2011, love you dad, you have done so much for me and my family, I am so grateful to have such a loving and caring father, may god bless you as you celebrate your special day! Love always from, Rebecca, David & family

19 years ago god blessed us a baby boy, who we named Robin Joel sam ash eekum aw beenaw skum Kawapit, Happy birthday son you have brought so much love and joy unto our lives it seems like yesterday that we brought you home from the hospital, don't ever forget that we love you so much and we are always there for you. agooda love always Mom & dad.

HAPPY 2nd BIRTHDAY to our BABY GIRL, JOY GLENNA-JANE BLACKSMITH on the 6th of March, we love you Joy and wish you many more birthdays! Love Always Mommy & Daddy

Happy 2nd Birthday to our little sister Joy Glenna-Jane Blacksmith, on March 6...we are so lucky to have a little sis like you, you make us laugh, you make us cry, but most of all you make us proud to be your big sister and big brother...love always SKY & JAY-DEN BLACKSMITH

We would like to wish a happy 1st birthday to our baby girl Marsha Miley Ava-Joy Whiskeychan and happy 8th birthday to our daughter, Marisa Angel Joy Whiskeychan...They are both sharing birthdays on march 17, 2011...We will have fun on ur day...Love you both ...Love Mom Bella, Dad Mario, brothers, Marcus&Malachi and sisters, Kateleen & Mya.

VALENTINE'S

Happy Valentine's Day to my love Dale. Love, Krystine xoxo

I want to wish a happy Valentine's Day to my children Terrell, Robin, Kayla-Marie and Davidson Kawapit I love you my babies, God has blessed me with four precious gifts from above. Love always,

Mom (Rebecca Masty-Kawapit from Whapmagoostui)

ANNIVERSARIES

Happy 38th wedding anniversary to my Aunt Elizabeth and Jimmy Sam on February 6th, 2011! May you be blessed with many more years together! With love, from Jennifer and Robert Dixon and our boys (OJAY)

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Missing Children's Network:

They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333.

Kid's Help Phone Line:

1-800-668-6868
(www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Youth helpline:

1-800-263-2266
(www.teljeunes.com)

Parent helpline:

1-800-361-5085 (www.parenthelpline.ca)

Drugs: help and reference:

1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca)

Gambling: help and reference:

1-800-265-2626 (www.info-reference.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:

1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolence-conjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality resources center:

1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline:

1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal:

1-866-403-4688. (www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec:

1-866-277-3553

Residential School Survivors:

A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: <http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources.html>

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- Appliquer et négocier des façons de faire avec les différents intervenants cris en ce qui concerne l'entente Apatissiwini.
- Agir comme porte-parole et promouvoir les obligations légales de l'entreprise auprès des différents intervenants régionaux et cris en ce qui concerne l'entente Apatissiwini et l'intégration du personnel cri.

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- Maîtrise du français et connaissance de l'anglais (atout)
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*Lease offer is from Honda Financial Services Inc. (HFSI), O.A.C. This offer applies on the new 2011 CR-V LX 2-wheel drive (model RE3H3BEY), 120,000 km allowance (12¢/km exceeding 120,000 km applies), \$1,500 freight and preparation (PD) and \$100 air conditioner tax included. Purchase price for this vehicle: \$27,980, transport and preparation and air conditioner tax included. **Limited time offer and subject to credit approval from Honda Financial Services Inc. (HFSI). An amount of \$27,945.94 at an annual credit rate of 2.9% for an 84-month term represents \$366 per month, credit fees of \$2,956.06 for a total obligation of \$30,912. No cash down required. The suggested price for the vehicle includes transport and preparation and air conditioner tax. Taxes and rights, insurance and registration are extra. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Only valid for Quebec residents at participating Quebec Honda dealers. For a limited time only. Subject to change by the manufacturer without prior notice. Valid on new in-stock vehicles only. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. See your Honda Dealer for complete details.



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Cree School Board Tours

2011



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Dates of Cree School Board Tours:

- Whapmagoostui – March 9 and 10, 2011*
- Chisasibi – March 21 and 22, 2011*
- Wemindji – February 7 and 8, 2011
- Eastmain – February 9 and 10, 2011
- Mistissini – February 21 and 22, 2011
- Waskaganish – March 7 and 8, 2011
- Nemaska – March 23 and 24, 2011
- Waswanipi – March 28 and 29, 2011
- Ouje-Bougoumou – March 30 and 31, 2011
- Washaw Sibi - Dates T.B.D

***NEW DATES**

Agenda Items for Cree School Board Tours

- Council Policy Manual;
- Executive Summary of *Communication, Accountability and Follow-up for School Improvement* (CAFSI) Report and Recommendations;
- CSB Strategic Action Plan (2011-2015);
- The Plan for School Improvement;
- Language Instruction Programs.